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appeared to be roughly circular and less than 2′ in diameter. There was no well-defined condensation.

By May 7th the comet was too faint to measure with the 12-inch telescope. A rough comparison with the ephemeris in *A. N.* 4172 gives the residuals (O – C) for May 7th, + 18^s and + 1′.5.

R. G. AITKEN.

May 24, 1907.

VISUAL OBSERVATIONS OF COMET 1905 IV.

A note in No. 113 of these *Publications* (p. 88) calls attention to the reobservation, photographically, on March 21, 1907, of this comet, which was originally discovered by KOPFF in March, 1906. Unfavorable weather conditions prevented my looking for the comet with the 36-inch refractor until the night of April 20, 1907, when it was readily seen. Though it was hardly as bright as a 14th-magnitude star, it was not a very difficult object to measure, because it had a well-defined nucleus of about 15½ or 16th magnitude.

A second observation was secured on May 4, 1907, and a comparison of the two with WEISSE's ephemeris in *A. N.* 4166 shows that the observed motion is slightly more rapid than the predicted.

R. G. AITKEN.

May 24, 1907.

NOTE ON COMET *a* 1907 (GIACOBINI).

From four observations (March 9th, by GIACOBINI, at Nice; March 13th, April 3d, by FATH, at Mt. Hamilton; April 9th, by AITKEN, at Mt. Hamilton) a second orbit of Comet *a* 1907 has been computed under the direction of Professor CRAWFORD. The fourth observation was introduced into the computation by the formation of a fictitious third position based on the two April observations.

The four observations are satisfactorily represented by a parabola. The inclination of the plane of the orbit to that of the ecliptic is 141° 39′; the longitude of the ascending node is 97° 39′; the longitude of perihelion is 54° 21′. The perihelion distance is 2.05 astronomical units, and the time of perihelion passage is March 19, 1907. The elements and an ephemeris extending to the end of May are published in *Lick Observatory Bulletin,* No. 113. The comet is moving away